

384

DR. JACK SEITZ

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Interviewed by Kathi Irving May 20, 2005

Transcribed by Marilyn Hunting September 2005

KI: Tell me where you were born and about your parents.

Jack: I was born December 25, 1932 in St. George, Utah. My parents were Andrew Nordfors Seitz and Delilah Leavitt. We actually lived in a little community just north of St. George, called Veyo. That's where I spent my early years. I have two brothers and two sisters. One brother passed away shortly after his birth.

KI: Where were you in the family?

Jack: I'm number three in the family. I have two younger sisters and two older brothers.

KI: Did you know the brother that passed away?

Jack: No. He was born about two years before I was born.

KI: What was your father doing down there?

Jack: My father at that time was farming and was a power plant operator. A few years later he was in charge of line work for the power company and was killed in 1937 by electrocution.

KI: Did he work for Utah Power?

Jack: No. It was called Southern Utah Power at that time. Utah Power was in the northern part of the state. It was a small, local company that actually covered from about Cedar City to Parawon, south to St. George at the time.

KI: What did your mother do after he passed away? You would only have been five years old.

Jack: My mother became the postmaster at Veyo shortly my father passed away and stayed in that position until she retired in about 1967.

KI: That's how she supported her family?

Jack: That, and my father had a farm that was about seven miles away and she traded that farm for an orchard and some property closer to home. We raised apples and different type of fruit and sold them, particularly at a deer season time to the California hunters that came into the state of Utah to hunt. That was another way she supplemented her income. We also raised our own animals. We had cows, pigs, chickens, horses, everything to keep us busy.

KI: I was going to ask what you did with your spare time?

Jack: We always had a little spare time playing. Usually with the cousins which I had several that were close by and fairly close to my age. We used to play a lot of marbles, particularly when I got into grade school. That was the main past time. That and dodge ball. I guess we could say "Ducky on the Rock," too." Which was wasn't a very safe game but we enjoyed playing it.

KI: What was that, Ducky on the Rock?

Jack: What you would do was to have a large rock and then put a smaller rock on top of it. The object was to stand back so far and see who could knock the rock off before "the one" was able to get the rock off, so you got hit with a rock once in awhile. That's what we did for pass time.

KI: Did your mother ever remarry?

Jack: My mother never remarried.

KI: Well, if you had two sisters younger than you then she must have had a very young baby when your father was killed?

Jack: My youngest sister was born about 26 days after my father was killed. He was killed on the 8th of June and she was born on the Fourth of July.

KI: What was your school like?

Jack: Well, the first six years of my school, I attended a two-room schoolhouse. We had four grades in you each room, up until I was in the sixth grade. One through

four in one room and five through eight in the other room.

There were some advantages to that - if you would pay attention you could listen to what was going on in the grade ahead of you and pick up ideas and get some education as you went along.

We had situations where at least two of my school teachers actually lived in our home; which was a disadvantage not only doing our homework but we used to tease her a lot. She was a young, single woman. This was during World War Two and she was actually dating my uncle and we used to tease her a lot. That's the only time I remember being disciplined, he walked across the school yard and I made some smart remark and she used the book of knowledge on my head. That was just part of life.

KI: What kind of subjects did you like in school?

Jack: Probably my favorite subjects were math and history. I enjoyed all but I enjoyed them most.

KI: Did you do pretty well in school?

Jack: Pretty well, except in art when I got in Jr. High School. That was the only C I ever received - was in art. I still can't draw a straight line with a ruler to this day.

KI Did you go to sixth grade there, you didn't go to all eight?

Jack: I only went to sixth. After sixth grade they decided to transport us. It was a very small school so they transported us on a bus to St. George. Over dirt roads and it usually took about an hour. It was only 20 miles but it took about an hour to travel that distance.

KI: What Jr. High did you go to?

Jack I went to Woodward Jr. High in St. George. The building is still standing. They no longer use it for a school. It was built in 1900 so it is an old building. Even when I went there it was fairly old.

At that time our Jr. High School configuration was four years; from the seventh thru the tenth grade. Then after graduating from Jr. High I attended Dixie High School, which at that time, the two years of high school were actually part of Dixie College. So you had college students and high school students. There were some classes which were actually different at the high school than they were at the

college but often times we took classes right with the college students.

For instance, I took German, it was a college credit class but we only received high school credit for it. Our music department, I used to play the saxophone in the high school band and the Jr. College band as well, it was all one unit, the college and the high school together.

KI: How did you feel about it, was it a good experience?

Jack: It was a good experience, I thoroughly enjoyed it, 'of course I knew nothing different. I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity of associating with those who were older. I got to participate, in some ways, with both the high school sports and the Jr. College sports as well. We didn't ever play in the Jr. College level till we were out of high school but the games were scheduled so you could attend both of them.

KI: Did you play sports?

Jack: I played football until I ruined a knee. That ended my football career.

KI: So tell me what your football uniform was like.

Jack: Well, the helmet was rather soft, it wasn't hard like they are now days. It was a soft and pliable helmet. The uniform, the shoulder pads were much smaller than you see now. They were actually very thin pads on your shoulders. They had us wear a hip pad around our waist, to cushion the fall when you would fall on your hips. The jersey was about the same maybe a little smaller because you didn't have to have it so large for the shoulder pads. Up until the time I went to high school they had been playing six-man football instead of eleven, so we got to see both of them.

KI: Were you playing on grass or were you playing on dirt?

Jack: We played football on grass. We had a football stadium with a track around it. It had grass on it. Of course in Southern Utah, St. George, being very hot, we had Bermuda grass rather than the type of grass you see in this country. So it was usually dry by the time we got around to playing football, it was kind of a brownish color.

Baseball and other athletic things we just played on dirt. It was alright, we enjoyed it.

KI: Did you play any other sports?

Jack: Not competitively. Used to play intramural sports, basketball, boxing a few things of that nature. We used to have a boxing league we boxed in. We had fun doing that.

KI: How old were you during the War?

Jack: Actually when the war started, I can remember them announcing on the radio the bombing of Pearl Harbor. I would have been nine. The thing I remember most was the young men being called into the military, which they were just a few years older than I was but, in a small community you knew everyone; it was almost like a brother, sister relationship even though they were older. It did effect my life in that way.

KI: Did you have to serve at all in the military - in Korea?

Jack: No. I didn't have to serve. I was married during the Korean War so they didn't draft me. I was married and had a child.

KI: When did you graduate from high school?

Jack: I graduated in 1951 from Dixie High School. I went two years to Dixie Jr. College, graduated in 1953. Then after that, I went to the University of Utah and the money ran out and I decided to change majors. So I went back to St. George and worked for about two years then I moved to Southern California.

To get my requirements to get into optometry school I attended Long Beach City College; for what they called quarters back in those days -for a quarter. Then I went to Compton Jr. College for a quarter, then I entered optometry school in August. It was called the Los Angeles College of Optometry then; now it's Southern California College of Optometry. The campus, when I attended was on Jefferson Boulevard in Los Angeles which was just around the corner from the University of Southern California. Basically it was on the same block as the dental school of University of Southern California.

KI: Why did you decide to go into optometry?

Jack: I became acquainted with a man who was an optometrist and he encouraged me to try it. I decided it looked like a good profession so I decided to go into it.

KI: How long did it take you to finish the school?

Jack: At the time I attended it took three years to get through optometry school. It now takes four years.

KI: Did you have to serve an internship or something?

Jack: Not at that time. We tried to serve our internships during the summer. After your freshman year you actually spent each summer in clinics, in different places. Even sometimes during the school year we would be shipped to different locations to serve in clinics in Southern California. That's where most of the internships came from was in those summer months.

KI: When you graduated, what did you do?

Jack: I was working on the police department, when I graduated, in South Gate, California as a police officer. I took the Utah Board and the California Board and found out I passed the Utah Board before I did the California Board. I was having some hay fever problems in California so I decided to come back to Utah. I came back and practiced in American Fork for a year, by myself. Then this practice in Vernal became available so I came to Vernal in 1960.

KI: Who was here before then?

Jack: Well, the practice was actually owned by Lincoln-Daynes of Salt Lake. He had had two other individuals here, Vern Nielson was here for a few years then Lowell Dewey was here for a few years.

KI: Before we go on with that, let's backup and talk about marrying Mildred. Tell me how you met her.

Jack: We met at Dixie Jr. College. I was a Senior in high school and she was a Freshman in College. We dated for most of the year and were married the next July. July 12, 1952.

KI: Where were you married?

Jack: In the St. George Temple.

KI: So she was with you through all that schooling and being a police officer?

Jack: Oh yes. We had quite an experience when we were first married. I was working on a farm; I had worked on a farm from the time that I was twelve years old until after we were married. I worked during the summer and after school. I was working there until after we were married. Then the first summer we were married I worked in a service station. I quit the service station because I couldn't get the hours I needed to continue on with my education, so I went to work for the O K Market. I worked there for a couple of years and when I graduated from Jr. College I then went on to the University of Utah.

KI: Did you have children by then?

Jack: We had our first child in 1953. So we had one child when I was going to the University of Utah. Our second was born while I was waiting -- in between leaving the University of Utah and going to Southern California, born in 1955.

KI: Tell me their names.

Jack: Jacqueline was born in St. George in 1953 and Sheldon was born in St. George in 1955.

KI: When you came to school in Salt Lake you still had to work?

Jack: I still worked. I worked as a clerk and a grounds keeper for the Lunt Motel. It used to be on 4th South and 7th East. Basically what I received for the work I put in, was a very small stipend plus an apartment to live in.

KI: When you went to California, did you have any children while there?

Jack: In California, Kathy was born the week after I graduated from optometry school. I graduated on the 7th and she was born on the 14th 1959. After living in American Fork for a year we moved to Vernal and our next to the youngest, a son, Gordon was born in Vernal in 1963 and our youngest was born here in 1965.

KI: Tell me about your career. How did the community accept you when you moved here?

Jack: It took a while, but after a few years the community accepted us very well. I was active in the Chamber of Commerce, the Lions Club, active in Church. My practice started growing, we got busy and Vernal has been very good to me from a professional stand point.

When I first moved here the office was on the west side of the Hotel Vernal across from Showalter Ford. In 1970 we built the building where I am now. Jim Drollinger and I built it. The address is 185 North Vernal Avenue.

KI: Who built it with you?

Jack Jim Drollinger. We built the building together; he had the accounting office. We leased the place where John Beaslin still has his office. We leased that to him and Jim used to have the back part of it for his accounting office and I had part of the north side where the office is located now. Lynn Nelson, the chiropractor, had the office right next to me. When Lynn moved out we expanded and took that whole north section of the building. Now the two sons have it. [Neldon and Gordon]

KI: Can you tell me any interesting things that happened while you were being an optometrist?

Jack: Oh, a lot of interesting things have happened, I've seen the practice of optometry expand tremendously since I graduated from school in 1959. The actual treatment of diseases; tremendous improvements in the instrumentation, equipment that is available for diagnosis purposes. We've seen the tremendous changes in styles of eye wear, different things of this nature; all — most of this has evolved since I graduated in 1959.

KI: Were people wearing contacts in 1959?

Jack: Yes. They were the hard contact lenses. That was the only type of material available. It was non-oxygen permeable when I started to practice. However, we still used quite a few hard contact lenses. Still have patients that have been wearing them after all these years, too.

KI: Once you got to Vernal — tell me some things — do you remember some of the businesses that were down on Main Street?

Jack: Oh yes, most of the businesses were actually between first east and fifth west

at that time. Most of them were actually within a two block area, downtown area. We've had a number of service stations that have disappeared since I moved to Vernal, as times have changed. We've seen new motels built. The main department store was Ashton's. Of course, there was Sprouse's, J.C. Penny's, a number of small retailers, which was basically owned by individuals living in Vernal.

When I served as President of the Chamber of Commerce I would say that 80% of the members of the Chambers were local proprietors of locally-owned businesses. We did have some government employees. We had some employees from the telephone company, which at that time was Mountain Bell. We had some Utah Power and Light employees which were active in the Chamber. For the majority they were local businesses here in town.

KI: Were they a real active group? Were you involved with Jaycees?

Jack: Never involved with the Jaycees. When I got here the Jaycees had basically disappeared. It was the Lion's Club that was the active organization - that was pushing a lot of stuff when I moved to Vernal. I was a member of the Lion's Club in American Fork and when I moved out here I transferred and became a member of the Vernal's Lion's Club.

I served as president in 1964. Then I served as the cabinet secretary to Whit Hammond who was the district Governor of the Lion's Club. I guess that was 1964 and was able to attend some of the International conventions of the Lion's Club. Toured around the district with him to visit different Lion's Club.

Then after I had served as president of the Lion's Club a couple of years later I was elected as President of the Chamber of Commerce. In fact, the year I was president of the Lion's Club, the Lion's Club had a hundred members in it.

KI: That was my next question. What has happened to the service organizations?

Jack: It's hard to tell, except I'm afraid, we have a lot of people, who have for some reason, have not caught the idea of service organizations; as a result of it, I think all have struggled because of it. We used to have the Kiwanis Club here and it dissolved, 'Of course, the Jaycees had basically dissolved when I came here. The Lion's Club was a huge Club, one of the bigger Clubs in the state when I was President. Rotary came in shortly after that and they picked up membership. I think we have seen it decrease in membership as well.

As a result service clubs are just having a real struggle. I think part of it is we haven't really pushed the idea of community service as much as we should. We don't instill in our young people the necessity in their mind, of serving their

community in those ways.

KI: Tell me about the elected offices you have served in.

Jack: My first elected office was to the Uintah County Board of Education. I think that was in 1966 or 67. Served four years there, then because of church responsibilities I decided I wouldn't be involved for awhile.

I stayed out of politics for about twelve years. Then I was elected to the Vernal City Council. I served there for eight years. All of them have been great experiences for me. Some of them have been very tough, some of the decisions we had to make on the school board, for instance. We had to close schools because of lack of students and because the buildings were old.

KI: Which schools were those?

Jack: We had to close Jensen. We had to close Whiterocks and Lapoint was almost to the point of being closed but we did keep it open. We closed those two schools; it's not an easy thing to do, but sometimes it is a necessity for the education of students.

The other thing, the district had been building schools on a "pay as you go" basis for years and we were getting further and further behind in the building of school. So we decided as a board, we would see if could float a bond. We hadn't had a building bond in the school district for years. So, to try to get the buildings up to where we had the space to take care of the students; after many months of working, we finally got a short-term bond of seven years. We could complete, what is now middle school, it was the Jr. High at that time. Remodel some areas at the high school, which is now the Jr. High, add to Naples Elementary. Do some work on the Maeser Elementary.

KI: Which Maeser School was that? Was it the old one that isn't there anymore?

Jack: It's the new one. We actually had the new one built while I was on the school board. It has been added to since that time.

KI: What did they do with the old one, did they raze it?

Jack: Yes. It was torn down. It was in a state of disrepair to where they felt it wasn't worth keeping it. It was finally torn down.

KI: Those are really emotional issues for community members, aren't they?

Jack: Yes. School are extremely emotional. In fact, there are some people - from closing their schools, are still not very friendly towards me. I speak to them but they are not what you call friendly towards me.

You have to make decisions that you figure are best for the education for the student. That was always my philosophy; I wanted to try to offer the very best education as possible to the students. We have to take the consequences of what other emotions get involved.

KI: You were not involved in building the current high school?

Jack: No. The current high school was built after I was on the board.

KI: Were you ever involved in the double sessions?

Jack: I can't remember, it seems to me that we did have some double sessions. But it wasn't for very long.

KI: You have lived here long enough that the high school was just across the street?

Jack: Yes, the high school was there. My children have always been able to walk to school. When I first moved here my oldest daughter, we had to take her to Central School Elementary. Ashley Elementary was here, part of it. It wasn't completed.

KI: So you were on the school board for awhile and you interrupted that for Church responsibilities. What were those responsibilities?

Jack: Well I was Bishop while I was on the school board. I only served as Bishop for 2 ½ years and was called to be Ashley Stake President. That was when I decided I needed to pull back in something and I pulled back and let politics go for awhile. I was Stake President for almost ten years.

After I was released as Stake President, some came to me and wanted me to run for the City Council. I was elected to the City Council and served there for eight years.

KI: While you were stake president, did you build this building or was it already built. [Ashley Stake Center]

Jack: This Ashley Stake Building was built in 1965-66. It was started in August of 1965 and held the first meeting in November 1966. It was dedicated in March 1967.

KI: When did they form the Ashley Stake?

Jack? Ashley Stake was formed in 1957, I think.

KI: Where were they meeting?

Jack: They used to meet in Vernal First and Fifth Ward where the hospital now stands. That building was razed, It's gone. We had stake conference in the tabernacle.

KI: Did you ever conduct meetings in the tabernacle? What was that like? Tell me about it.

Jack: Yes, for two years. It was a good experience. The only problem we had was that the building was not large enough to hold the congregation. At the time we were holding two meetings on Sunday; one at 10:00 and one at 2:00.

KI: Is that so everyone could be accommodated?

Jack: No, that was the format of the church at that time. There were two general sessions. One at 10:00 and one at 2:00. After being there for about two years we found out we just couldn't get the number of people attending conference in the tabernacle. This building over here [Ashley Stake Center] would hold many more than the tabernacle so we decided to leave the tabernacle and meet in our stake center. So I did have the privilege of being in both of them.

KI: Was it a little hot in there?

Jack: In the summer time it got warm. Winter time sometimes it would be cool. The heating system wasn't the best. Most of it ran off from what is now the Glines Stake Center building heating system. The comfort of the old tabernacle - it was a beautiful old building but the way the benches were put together, particularly in the balcony, it was difficult for people to get comfortable.

KI: You told me one time about women being pregnant and sitting up there - it was the most uncomfortable thing you could imagine.

When you were there did they still have the big mural on the wall or had it been painted over? Right behind the pulpit there was a big mural.

Jack: It had been painted over by the time we were there.

KI: I wonder why they did that?

Jack: I don't know, it was done before my time. In fact, I don't remember ever seeing it after I came to Vernal. It must have been painted over earlier. We always had stake conference there from the time I moved to Vernal until we moved out in 1972 or 73.

KI: Did everybody pretty much move out then?

Jack: No. Uintah Stake always had their meetings in the tabernacle for years after that. The building got to the standpoint it just wasn't feasible to put the money needed to renovate the building. I think that was the reason everyone moved out of it.

We [Ashley Stake] had moved entirely out of the tabernacle and so the entire entitlement had gone to Uintah Stake, we didn't have any direct contact as far as Ashley Stake was concerned.

KI: When you were on the City Council - what were the big issues?

Jack: For the first while it was the growth. Providing infrastructure for the growth that had been projected for the Valley. Oil shale had been projected to be the big boom. In fact the state had given us the projection that we would have 50,000 people in the Ashley Valley within ten years.

KI: What were those years?

Jack: I went on the City Council in 1979-80. They were building the power plant and the oil shale was going on. Our biggest challenge for the first four or five years was intra-structure growth; building permits, re-zoning, different things to care for the growth that was taking place.

KI: Then what happened?

Jack: Then the bottom fell out of it, as usual, which I have seen happen a number of times since coming to Vernal. When I first moved to Vernal the Flaming Gorge Dam was being built and that had a lot of push. Then that dropped and we had a real economic struggle for several years before things finally started to pick back up.

The oilfield opened up a little more and as the result of it we have seen some growth come back. Then we'd just get going again - we even had a sewing factory in here for a while. Some of us got together and put up some money and got a sewing factory. They actually worked out of the gym of the old high school where the swimming pool is now. It did provide employment for some of our local people for awhile. It was a clothing sewing factory.

KI: What was it called? I've never heard of it.

Jack: I don't remember what they called it. It was a division of the Coleman Corp. It was for awhile then it changed names. In fact, I invested - I put some money into it. I figured it was just something we put together to help the community and we will never see it. After about ten - twelve years, I received a check in the mail for the amount I had put into it, it didn't cover any interest but I got the initial amount back.

I've seen a lot of things happen in Vernal to try to stimulate the economy. That's the problem we have; having basically one industry as the basis of our economy, if it goes down everything goes down. The tourist industry has always been pushed quite hard, but again it's seasonal, it's a good basis to work from.

KI: What do you think about the current boom? Do you have any skepticism there?

Jack: I think, if it's typical, we will see the same as in the past. When you see the price of gas and oil go down you will probably see the movement of companies out, employees leaving. I hope it doesn't happen but in the last 45 years I don't know how many of these I've seen come and go. The thing that you get is that it is a real big boom for a while then when it goes down it really shuts things down for a while.

KI: I've heard someone say recently that our economy is more diversified now than it was back in the early eighties, for example. Do you agree with that?

Jack: I think one thing that has happened, we basically have become the retail

center for eastern Utah and western Colorado. Gilsonite has gone down, we don't have as many people employed in the gilsonite industry, it has always been a fairly stable industry most of the time. It's had its ups and down. It isn't as good for employment as it used to be. The phosphate plant has been here for a good number of years and its pretty stable, however, it still has fluctuations, or has had over the years. It used to be the hauling of the phosphate out of here, the trucking.

We've had some addition, probably a little more diversified than we were a few years ago but we need more diversification, in my opinion.

KI: What else could come here, in your opinion?

Jack: Oh, I've fought it for eight years; I see the economic development in the state of Utah all being on the I-15 corridor. I don't think that's necessary. Transportation is a problem for heavy type of industry. We are at a disadvantage because we don't have a railroad but there are so many things moved by truck nowadays and we could move a lot of stuff out of here if we could get the push and the impetus, I think personally, the state economic people need to get some these industries off the Wasatch Front. What we are doing is creating a mess on the Wasatch Front.

SIDE TWO

I think we need to encourage industries, give them incentives to come to rural areas, not just the Uintah Basin, but other rural areas of the state of Utah where the resources are, water and other things but they just don't have the infrastructure to take care of the areas.

Even our state government is overly centralized in the Salt Lake area, as far as I'm personally concerned. We don't need all of those big office buildings within two miles of the State Capitol. They can work other places. I had that discussion with Governor Leavitt the first year I was in the legislature. I said you are just building these buildings and creating more gridlock, more problems, problems for the employees. We need to diversify and move some of these offices off the Wasatch Front. You will never see that happen because almost 50% of the legislature comes from Salt County. They want to stay there.

KI: That brings up the next question. Did you go straight from being on the City Council to running for state office?

Jack: No. I was asked to be the chairman of the committee for building the Western Park. I was on that for three or four years and then I served on the committee for the operation of the Park after it was built, for a while.

KI: Let me ask you - was that still under the auspices of the county? Always been?

Jack: Yes. It always has been. When it was built I only made one stipulation to the commissioners, I said, I'm not going to serve as the chairman of the committee unless we have some authority to make some decisions.

I didn't want to go to the county every time the committee made a decision. We had it set up so the decisions were basically made by the committee and not by the county commission, or the construction of that park. It worked quite well and we had it completed in less than three years time.

It was a real challenge to get all the groups that were involved in it and wanted to use it, to come to some kind of agreement of what we needed there.

KI: Tell me about those groups, who were they?

Jack: Well, you had the racing association, the rodeo committee, Uintah Arts Council, 4H. There was just a whole group of people. We would meet with different groups all the time to try to get their input as to what they thought would function.

KI: Was this a paid position for you?

Jack: No. All volunteer. All the committee members were volunteer. So we would meet together, make our decisions; it didn't make them all happy but we tried to be as fair as we could with everyone and still live within the budget we new we had too - to build it at that point.

KI: How did you get the budget?

Jack: The budget came from a grant from the Community Impact Board. At that point of time we were in very, very dire circumstance, as far as the economic situation in the county was concerned.

KI: When was it, do you remember?

Jack: Oh, when did we start it? Eighty ----- during that bust time, 1984-85 is when we first started working on it and it was completed in 1989. A lot of work went into it before construction ever started.

KI: Were you able to select the architect?

Jack: We were able to select the architects and make the recommendations; the commissioners did give their approval. They gave the approval on the construction manager. Most of the decisions were left to the committee.

KI: You think that worked out well?

Jack: It worked quite well. Very well, in fact; if we had had to go back and forth the way they do in a lot of things, with just an advisory committee, I don't think it would be built today.

KI: So then did you go into the legislature after that?

Jack: I didn't, I ran for the legislature in 1994. My first year was 1995.

KI: Did you like that?

Jack: I enjoyed the legislature. You have to learn to work with people differently, to get things past, than what I had done previously; working with five city councilmen. It's different when you start working with 104 legislators and the governor to get something through. It's a different process.

KI: We should note that you were in the House of Representatives and representing what district?

Jack District 55. It's still District 55 but a different district than when I was elected.

KI: What committees did you serve on?

Jack: The first two years I served on Natural Resources and Community Economic Development, Revenue and Taxation. I served on Revenue and Taxation all ten years I was there. I changed the others. I served a couple of years on higher education. I served on Health and Human Services, I was chairman of the Health and Human Services appropriation sub-committee for four years. Which was longer than I anticipated being there but they asked me to stay on, so I did. I served on several task forces, energy task force, electrical energy task force, which there was a big move in those days to privatize the generators to do away with the

regulation of the electrical industry. We saw what happened in California, it kind of died on the vine.

I had quite a diversified experience, which I always wanted. I think when you are in the legislature you have to become acquainted with a lot of different areas because that is what you're dealing with in the legislature. I served on Law and Criminal Justice for four years, my police background helped tremendously there.

KI: Was there any huge issue you remember during that time?

Jack: There was a lot of huge issues. One of the hottest issues was gun control, concealed weapon permits. We couldn't find a large enough hall to hold all the people that wanted to come those hearings.

KI: What was your opinion?

Jack: Well, I personally think we should not control guns. The second amendment says you can't and the state constitution says you have the right to own guns. It's how you limit the concealed weapon. It should be very limited as to where you can't carry that gun, if you want to carry it.

KI: Is there something else you would like tell me that is historically important?

Jack: I think one of the things I worked on for three years that has been a tremendous help to the counties; that is getting 15% of the mineral lease money generated in the county, back to the county of origin. I probably spent more time on that particular issue than any issue that I had while I was in the legislature. But in the long run it was well worth it for the county.

KI: What was it before?

Jack: It used to be that 25% would come back to the counties. We raised it to 40%. That was a tough issue a lot of negotiation.

KI: Because the bigger counties wanted our money?

Jack: The bigger counties can't get it. Salt Lake and Davis aren't eligible for it. It's the smaller counties that wanted the money but some of them don't produce any mineral lease either.

From sitting on the city council and seeing what was happening, a good part of that money should be coming back to the local county where it is produced. That was the philosophy I started with. The first year, it was very interesting, one of the most adamant legislators against it was from a county that would have benefitted most, next to Uintah County. So, it took a while; the second year it got closer and the third year it finally past. It wasn't the way I wanted it but was as good as I could get at the time.

KI: Do you want to bring me up to date on your family?

Jack: I have five children. Four of them live in the Vernal area. The oldest son lives in Taylorsville, I have twenty six grandchildren and five great grand children. 'My two sons have the practice that I worked in for years and Kathy's husband, Todd. My oldest daughter married DeArmon Batty and they have Basin Sports. My oldest son works for a manufacturer of large woodworking lathes in Salt Lake.

KI: Did you retire before you went into the legislature?

Jack: I retired last September [2004] Between the church calling I have and legislature - just wasn't working and I didn't have time enough get the education hours to renew my license , so I decided at my age, it was a good time to retire. But I practiced all the time I was in the legislature, except for five months.

KI: How long are legislative sessions?

Jack: The legislative session, itself, is 45 days. From the third Monday of January to the first Wednesday of March. Then we meet at least once a month as committees on the third Wednesday of every month except for August. Well, they take April and December off and sometimes August, depending on the agenda. So there is something going on all the time. Then we have local meetings with our constituents - things of that nature.

KI: So what are you doing with yourself in your retirement?

Jack: Right now I'm doing a church job that takes full time. Councilor in the Temple Presidency. We are there about forty hours a week or longer. It pretty well takes care of what time I have.

We rotate what we do; we'll work the morning shift which is from 4:45, roughly, until about 1:00. Then the next day we take the afternoon shift, which is

from one o'clock till about ten. Then we get a day off then go back to the morning.

KI: How do you feel about your life right now?

Jack: I feel good about my life. I've had a good life, it's been a good to me, I can't complain. Good family. Opportunities I've had of serving both in the church and the community, the state. I've thoroughly enjoyed it, a lot of challenges but it's something that I think everyone needs to be involved in to see what goes on.

KI: I need to go back and ask you a question. When you were on the school board, who was the superintendent?

Jack: Ashel Evans was most of the time I was there.

KI: Who was the mayor?

Jack: Mayor was Sam Snyder when I was on the Council.

KI: Who was the governor when you were in the legislature?

Jack: Mike Leavitt was governor except the last year and Olene Walker was the last year I was there.

KI: Did you enjoy going to the Olympics?

Jack: I enjoyed the Olympics. I didn't attend a lot of events but I did attend some. It was a good time to be in the Salt Lake area because of the activities going on. To see different people from different countries in the world, to intermingle with them, to talk with them. It was a good atmosphere.

I had a lot of opportunities - we had the Centennial of the State of Utah while I was in the legislature. We had the Sesquicentennial of the arrival of the pioneers into the Salt Lake Valley, we had the Olympics, so we had several events that took place while I was in the legislature that gave me the opportunity to participate in different things with different people.

